

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-2 will have been amended to enhance the clarity without significantly narrowing the scope thereof. Further, claims 3-12 will have been newly added and no claims will have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-12 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection together with an indication of the allowability of all the claims in the present application, in due course.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings.

However, Applicant notes that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on March 26, 2004, but a copy of the PTO-1449 form attached thereto has not been returned. Accordingly, in the next communication, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner return a signed copy of the PTO-1449, filed on March 26, 2004, to confirm consideration of the documents cited therein.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the specification. In particular, the Examiner objected to the Abstract for including "means" terminology. To overcome the Examiner's objection, Applicant has amended the Abstract to enhance the clarity thereof and to place the Abstract in better form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by BROWN et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,152,512), hereinafter referred to as BROWN. Applicant respectfully traverses the above-noted rejection and submits that it is inappropriate with respect to the claims pending in the present application.

In particular, Applicant submits that the invention, as recited, is advantageous in ensuring that knobs and lids of glove box assemblies are appropriately mounted together in correspondence with the selected mounting side of the glove box assemblies. To provide such beneficial features, the present invention, as recited in the claims, is directed towards including an identifying member on the knobs and the lids. More specifically, and with respect to the non-limiting example set forth in the specification, when the glove box assembly is mounted on the left side, the identifying member 100 includes guide protrusion 114 on knob 34a and guide groove 112 on lid 31a. However, when the glove box assembly is mounted on the right side, the identifying member 100 includes guide protrusion 124 formed on knob 34b and guide groove 122 formed on lid 31b. As illustrated in Figures 3a and 3b, the identifying member of the left mounting side differs with the respect to the identifying member of the right mounting side. Accordingly, such differences allow for the identification of appropriate mountings of knobs to lids corresponding to the same mounting side, as well as inappropriate mountings of knobs to lids. However, Applicant submits that BROWN fails to disclose or suggest, inter alia, such advantageous features, as recited in the claims.

For example, Applicant submits that BROWN does not disclose or suggest a glove box assembly comprising an identifying structure that identifies attaching components based upon the mounting side of the glove box assembly to ensure that properly matched components are mounted. On the other hand, BROWN specifically discloses a latch assembly that is symmetrical, thereby rendering the latch assembly suitable for use in both right side driving countries and left side driving countries (e.g., column 9, lines 33-37). Accordingly, BROWN is unconcerned with the problem addressed by Applicant's invention, as well as not providing the claimed identifying structure, thereby neither anticipating or rendering obvious the combination of features as recited in the Applicant's claims. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested together with an indication of the allowability of all pending claims.

Furthermore, Applicant submits new claims 3-12 for the Examiner's consideration. New independent claim 3 is directed towards, inter alia, a glove box assembly having identifying structures. New independent claim 8 is directed towards, inter alia, an identifying member that identifies a knob configured to attach to a lid based upon the selected mounting side of the glove box assembly. New claims 3 and 8 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above. Additionally new claims 4-7 and 9-12 are allowable for at least depending on either new claim 3 or 8.

Thus, in view of the amendments and arguments herein, Applicant submits that claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2, 4-7, and

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9-12, Applicant asserts that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as because they depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, 3, or 8, which the Applicant has shown to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of the claims, as well as indication of the allowability of all of the claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have amended the claims to enhance clarity only and argued their allowability. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the recited claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

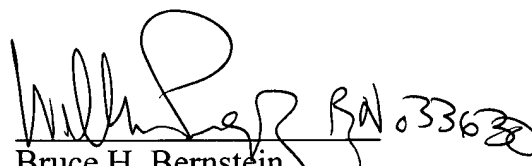
Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

October 22, 2004  
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Respectfully submitted,  
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